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REMARKS

Claims 1-20 are pending in the application. Claims 9-20 have been withdrawn from further consideration as being drawn to a non-elected invention. Of the remaining claims, claims 2, 3, and 5 are objected to, but otherwise contain allowable subject matter. Accordingly, Applicant has amended claims 2 and 5 to be rewritten in independent form. Claims 3, 4, 6 and 7 have also been amended to remove reference characters and to be dependent from claim 2 which is now in a condition for allowance. Claim 14 has been cancelled. Thus, only claim 1 remains rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102 in view of Applicant's admitted prior art as set forth in Figure 5 of the application.

With regard to the specification objections set forth in paragraph 2 of the Office Action, Applicant has corrected the typographical error noted on page 8, lines 18 and 19. The suggested amendment at page 7, line 25, however, was not made as Applicant believes that the term "comprise" properly refers to "the connecting portions."

With regard to the rejection of claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. §102, Applicant submits that claim 1 is novel in view of Figure 5 and the description in the specification because claim 1 is substantially different than Figure 5 in at least two respects. First, the driveshaft shown in Figure 5 fails to show Applicant's claimed radial gaps between the tube and the attaching parts. In this regard, Applicant's use of the term radial gaps in the claim would be readily understood by one of skill in the art when reading the claims in context with the specification, to mean appreciable radial gaps such that the first and second attaching parts can be positioned with respect to the tube element to eliminate out-of-balance conditions which is the primary object of the present invention. Second, in the prior art embodiment described in the specification and shown in Figure 5, the tube element is aligned centrally on the longitudinal axes of the attachable elements (paragraph [0033]). The method as recited in claim 1 is substantially different in that the tube element is held with two points of its center line on a reference axis and the first and second attachable parts are positioned with respect to this reference axis. Only by this feature can the object of the present disclosure be achieved that the tube element and the attaching elements are positioned independently of each other to minimize any imbalances remaining after welding the parts together. For at least these reasons,

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Applicant submits that claim 1 is allowable over the admitted prior art and the specification and, therefore, the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102 should be withdrawn.

Having overcome all of the objections and rejections, the Applicant submits that claims 1-8 are in a condition for allowance. Applicant has further amended withdrawn claim 13 to be of similar scope of allowable claim 2. That is, since claim 2 is allowable, independent claim 13 should be allowable for at least the same reasons as these claims are linked as a method claim and apparatus claim directed toward the same general inventive concept. Thus, for at least the same reasons noted in allowing claim 2, claims 13 and 15-20 should also be allowed. Applicant has merely amended the claims herein to put them in a condition for allowance in a similar fashion as was done with claims 2-8. Accordingly, a Notice of Allowance indicating the allowability of claims 1-8, 13 and 15-20 should be issued. The Examiner is invited to telephone the Applicant's undersigned attorney at (248) 223-9500 if any unresolved matters remain.

Respectfully submitted,

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